

Application of: WALKER, Brock  
Serial No.: 09/390,625  
Filed: September 7, 1999  
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:
  - a main body having a central portion and adjacent side portions,
  - a plurality of compressive support areas, one having a first compression value located at the central portion of the main body that is focused upon the sacrum and lesser compression areas with compression values less than in the central position located directly adjacent each side of the central portion, wherein the first compression value is greater than the second compression value.
2. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein the main body is formed from a molded material.
3. (Original) The sacral support of claim 2 wherein said main body is an integral one piece structure.
4. (Original) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein, the compressive support of said central portion is variable.
5. (Previously Presented) A portable sacral support, comprising:
  - a main body having a bottom, a central portion, adjacent side portions, and a rear surface, the rear surface comprising:
    - a plurality of spaced apart ramps and recesses that collectively provide compressive support at the central portion of the main body that is focused upon the sacrum and lesser compression in a release area located adjacent each side of that central portion that applies

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less force on muscles adjacent the sacrum, wherein said central portion includes a recess and said support further includes one or more inserts of varying levels of compressibility that can fit into said recess and which is additive to the compressibility of said central portion when positioned within said recess.

6. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 further including a spacer member that interfits with said main body to provide an extension thereof so that sacral support can be provided where more space must be accommodated in the area between the seat back and seat bottom.

7. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein the compressive support of said central portion is variable.

8. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein said central portion includes a rearwardly facing recess and at least one insert member that interfits within said recess.

9. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 8 wherein said support further includes a plurality of additional inserts, each having a different level of compressibility that can fit into said recess and which is additive to the compressibility of said central portion when the insert is positioned within said recess.

10. (Original) The sacral support as in claim 5 wherein said inserts have an inverted tear drop shape.

11. (Original) The sacral support as in claim 5 wherein said inserts have a ramp member positioned adjacent a bottom portion.

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12. (Original) The sacral support of claim 5 wherein said inserts have density values ranging from about 2lb./cu.ft. to about 30 lb./cu.ft.
13. (Original) The sacral support of claim 5 wherein said inserts have density values ranging from about 10 lb./cu. ft. to about 25 lb./cu.ft.
14. Canceled.
15. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 further including an end portion at each of two opposed ends located outwardly from the central and adjacent side portions, each of which include at least one thickened area.
16. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 further including end portions that extend beyond said adjacent side portions and provide additional support and aid in forming a release area adjacent each side of the central portion.
17. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 16 further including a bottom area and wherein a flex gate is provided adjacent said bottom area between said central portion and each of said end portions.
18. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 17 wherein said flex gate is at least, in part, unconnected to said main body.
19. (Original) The sacral support of claim 1 further including a plurality of dimples spaced across at least a portion of a front surface of said main body.

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20. (Original) The sacral support of claim 1 further including a plurality of through holes extending through at least portions of said main body.
21. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein said central portion further includes a rearwardly protruding lower portion.
22. Canceled.
23. (Previously presented) The sacral support of claim 1 further including a bottom having a rear portion that is angled with respect to a front position.
24. (Original) The sacral support of claim 1 wherein said main body includes a curved front surface.
25. (Previously presented) The sacral support as in claim 2 wherein said material comprises a durable foam.
26. (Previously presented ) The sacral support of claim 25 wherein the foam is a self-skinning foam.
27. (Original) The sacral support of claim 5 wherein the central portion has a compressibility level that produces from about 2 psi to about 4 psi on the sacrum of the support user.
28. (Currently Amended) A portable sacrum support for supporting the sacrum of a user seated in a seat with said support positioned in front of the back of seat and behind the user sacrum, said support comprising: a main body having front and rear surfaces, a bottom, a central

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portion, and an adjacent side portion on each side of the central portion that collectively provide compressive support and an end portion located outwardly from each of the adjacent side portions, the central portion having a first level of compression, and areas of lesser compressive support in a release area located in each of the two adjacent side portions ~~where~~, wherein the first level of compression is harder than in the two adjacent side portions where less force is applied to muscles adjacent the sacrum.

29. (Original) A portable sacrum support as in claim 28 wherein said support provides a force of about 2 psi to about 4 psi on the sacrum of the support user.

30. (Previously presented) A portable sacrum support as in claim 28 wherein the central portion further includes a recess and a plurality of insert members that can be received in the recess, each insert having a different compression value.

31. (Previously presented) A portable sacrum support as in claim 30 wherein at least one of said plurality of insert members has a plurality of compression values.

32. (Currently Amended) A portable sacral support for use along the area where a seat bottom and seat back meet, comprising: a main body having, a central portion, adjacent side portions directly adjacent the central portion and end portions located outwardly from the adjacent side portions, said main body having a plurality of first and second compression areas, ~~said a~~ first compression area having a first and greatest compression value and being centrally positioned to provide controlled force against a support user's sacrum, ~~said a~~ second compression having a compression value less than said first compression value and comprising the adjacent side portions being positioned adjacent each side of said first compression area ~~and second compression areas~~, and a third compression area at the end portions having a compression value between that of said first and second compression areas.

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33. (Original) A portable sacrum support as in claim 32 wherein said sacral support provides a force of about 2 psi to about 4 psi on the sacrum of the support user.

34. (Currently Amended) A portable sacral support for use along the area where a seat bottom and seat back meet, comprising: a main body having,

a central portion, ~~and end portions~~ at opposing ends of the main body, said main body having first and second compression areas, said first compression area having a first compression value in the central portion to provide controlled force against a support user's sacrum, said second compression area located between each side of the central portion and respective end portions, said second compression area having a compression value less than said first compression value ~~and being positioned adjacent each side of said first compression area~~.

35. (Previously presented) A portable sacrum support as in claim 34 wherein said sacral support provides a force of about 2 psi to about 4 psi on the sacrum of the support user.

36. (Previously presented) A portable sacrum support as in claim 34, further including a third compression area located adjacent each end portion and having a compression value between that of said first and second compression values.

37. (Previously presented) The portable sacrum support as in claim 28 wherein the central portion applies concentrated pressure on the sacrum while portions adjacent each side of the sacrum are nestled in the release areas.

38. (Previously presented) A portable sacral support for supporting the sacrum of a user seated in a seat with said support positioned in front of the back of the seat and behind the user sacrum, said support comprising a main body having first, second and third compression areas at

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separate locations along the length of the support, said first compression area being centrally positioned on the support to provide a first amount of compression to thereby provide a controlled amount of force against a support user's sacrum when the user is in the seat, said second compression area being positioned adjacent each side of the first compression area and having less compression than said first compression area, said third compression area being positioned outwardly of each of the second compression areas and having an amount of compression between that of said first and second compression areas.

39. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

an elongated, low profile main body with a height about half that of the width, the main body having a central portion, an end portion at each of two opposing ends of the main body and an intermediate portion located between each end portion and the central portion;

the central portion having a first compression value that will apply force onto the sacrum of a seated user with each intermediate portion having a second compression value less than first compression value thereby permitting tissue and body structures adjacent the sacrum to nest rearwardly into the intermediate portions as the sacrum is supported.

40. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

an elongated, low profile main body, the main body having a central portion, an end portion at each of two opposing ends of the main body and an intermediate portion located between each end portion and the central portion;

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the central portion having a first and greatest compression value that will apply force onto the sacrum with each intermediate portion having a compression value less than that used in the central position.

41. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

an elongated, low profile main body, the main body having a central portion, an end portion at each of two opposing ends of the main body and an intermediate portion located between each end portion and the central portion;

the central portion having a first compression value that will apply force of less than about 10 psi onto the sacrum, each intermediate portion having a compression value less than that used in the central position.

42. (New) The portable sacral support s in claim 41 wherein the pressure applied onto the sacrum is less than about 4 psi.

43. (New) The portable sacral support s in claim 41 wherein the pressure applied onto the sacrum ranges between about 2 to about 4 psi.

44. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

an elongated, low profile main body, the main body having a central portion, an end portion at each of two opposing ends of the main body and an intermediate portion located between each end portion and the central portion;

the central portion being formed with a first thickness and each intermediate portion being formed with a second thickness, wherein the first thickness is greater than



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the second thickness in each intermediate portion, the central portion being arranged to affect the sacrum of a seated user.

45. (New) A sacral support comprising:

a wedge shaped device having a center portion and two side portions, integrally formed with the center portion, wherein the sacral support is sized to support the sacrum of a human user and to permit the adjacent articular structures and tissues to relax rearwardly when positioned on a seat behind the human user; and wherein the center portion is constructed and adapted to offer greater support to a user's sacrum than the two side portions offer as support for the tissues and structures adjacent the sacrum.

46. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

a main body having, a central portion and adjacent side portions,  
a plurality of compressive support areas, one having a first compression value located at the central portion of the main body that is focused upon the sacrum and lesser compression areas having compression values less than the first compression value located adjacent each side of the central portion, wherein said central portion includes a rearwardly facing recess and at least one insert member that interfits within said recess.

47. (New) A portable sacral support positioned along an area where a seat back and a seat bottom meet, comprising:

a main body having a central portion and adjacent side portions,  
a plurality of compressive support areas, a first compressive support area having a first compression value located at the central portion of the main body that is focused upon the sacrum and second and third lesser compression areas with compression values less than the first compression value located adjacent each side of the central portion,

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further including end portions that extend beyond said adjacent side portions and provide additional support and aid in forming a release area adjacent each side of the central portion, and a bottom area and wherein a flex gate is provided adjacent said bottom area between said central portion and each of said end portion.

48. (New) A portable sacrum support for supporting the sacrum of a user seated in a seat with said support positioned in front of a seat back and behind the user sacrum, said support comprising: a main body having front and rear surfaces, a bottom, a central portion, an adjacent side portion on each side of the central portion that collectively provide compressive support, the central portion having a first level of compression, each adjacent side portion comprising an area of lesser compressive support thereby forming a release area adjacent the central portion where less compressive force is applied to muscles adjacent the sacrum than is applied in the central portion, and wherein the central portion further includes a recess and a plurality of insert members that can be received in the recess, each insert having a different compression value

49. (New) A portable sacral support for use along the area where a seat bottom and seat back meet, comprising: a main body having,

a central portion and end portions, said main body having first and second compression areas, said first compression area having a first compression value in the central portion to provide controlled force against a support user's sacrum, said second compression area having a compression value less than said first compression value and being positioned adjacent each side of said first compression area, and further including a third compression area located adjacent each end portion and having a compression value between that of said first and second compression values.

50. (New) A portable sacrum support for supporting the sacrum and controlling the spine of a user seated in a seat with the support positioned in front of the back of seat and behind the user

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sacrum, said support comprising: a wedge shaped main body having front and rear surfaces, a bottom, a central portion, an adjacent side portion positioned on each side of the central portion that collectively provide resistive support, and an end portion located outwardly from each of the adjacent side portions, the central portion having a first and greater amount of resistance than is provided in adjacent side portions where each exhibits an area of lesser resistance and support thereby defining a release area so that less resistance exists against areas adjacent the sacrum than is applied to the sacrum by the central portion thereby permitting body structures adjacent the sacrum to nest rearwardly into the adjacent side portions as the sacrum is supported more forwardly.

51. (New) A removable support for an automobile seat having a seat back area and a seat bottom area, comprising:

- a wedge of pliable material having a base portion integrally formed with a riser portion;

- the base portion having a base surface to sit on at least a portion of the seat bottom area;

- the riser portion having a face surface extending upward from the base portion at an acute angle relative to the base surface, the riser portion having a back surface resting against at least a portion of the seat back area, the riser portion also having a central volume between a first portion of the face surface and a first portion of back surface, the riser portion also having two side volumes between, respectively, second and third portions of the face surface and second and third portions of the back surface, where the first portion of the face surface is between the second and third portions of the face surface, and where the first portion of the back surface is between the second and third surfaces of the back surface, the central volume also being of pliable material having a first characteristic compression coefficient and the side volumes being of pliable material

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having a second characteristic compression coefficient less resistant to compression than the first characteristic compression coefficient; and

wherein, the two side volumes and the central volume are arranged in the riser portion such that, when a user is seated on the removable support in the automobile seat, the two side volumes are essentially aligned with the user's ilia(s) and the central volume is essentially aligned with the user's sacrum.

52. (New) The removable support as in claim 51, wherein the base portion further includes an edge portion on the rear thereof for insertion into a space between the seat back area and the seat bottom area

53. (New) The removable support as in claim 51, wherein the face surface includes a raised area in the area of the central volume.

54. (New) The removable support as in claim 51, wherein the support is molded in one piece and includes a first and higher density foam central volume and a lower density foam in each of the two side volumes.

55. (New) The removable support as in claim 51, wherein the central volume has a greater thickness than the two side volumes.

56. (New) The removable support as in claim 51, wherein at least the base surface includes a slip resistant treatment.

57. (New) The sacral support of claim 51 further including a spacer member that interfits with said removable support to provide an extension thereof so that sacral support can be

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provided where more space must be accommodated in the area between the seat back area and seat bottom area.

58. (New) The sacral support of claim 40 further including a spacer member that interfits with said main body to provide an extension thereof so that sacral support can be provided where more space must be accommodated in the area between the seat back and seat bottom.

59. (New) The sacral support of claim 45 further including a spacer member that interfits with said wedge shaped device to provide an extension thereof so that sacral support can be provided where more space must be accommodated in the area between a seat back and a seat bottom.